

DEMOCRATS IN NEW FIGHT

Declare Measure Will Be Kept Before Senate Until March 4, if Necessary.

EXTRA SESSION BELIEVED NOW TO BE INEVITABLE

Senator Fletcher Will Offer Amendment to Clarke Motion to Recommit.

Administration leaders in the Senate announced today that they intended to fight on for the passage of the government ship purchase bill. They insisted that they would keep the bill before the Senate if it took all the rest of the present session and forced an extra session this spring to care for the appropriation bills.

If this course be followed, an extra session is believed to be inevitable.

A shift of plans was ordered today by the leaders. Instead of allowing the ship bill to be re-committed and then attempting to put through the Gore motion to discharge the commerce committee from further consideration of a similar measure, the leaders determined to offer an amendment to the Clarke motion to recommit the bill so that the committee would be instructed to report out the bill again within twenty-four hours and amended so as to satisfy the republican progressives.

Republicans Will Talk.

When this plan became known to the republicans, they announced that any amendment offered to the Clarke motion to recommit the bill would be "discussed at length." This is taken to mean that they will begin their filibuster immediately. They insist that they will be able to talk the ship bill to death between now and March 4. Night sessions may be the order of the day until the bill is passed.

It was reported this morning that ninety-six senators were in Washington, and that the membership of the Senate, and that they were ready to begin their fight in the Senate chamber and vote. This is almost unheard of in the recent history of the Senate, for usually some of the senators are away from the city or paired. But the struggle over the ship bill has grown so intense that the leaders on both sides have exerted every effort to get their men here.

Fletcher to Force Bill.

Senator Fletcher, chairman of the ship bill, stated that he would offer the amendment to the Clarke motion, and declared that he intended to keep the bill before the Senate to the exclusion of all other business.

When the Senate convened today, Senator Russell of Louisiana made a speech defending the administration bill and criticizing the republicans for their filibuster against the measure.

Two Ship Advocates Arrive.

With the arrival in Washington today of Senator Smith of South Carolina and Senator Newlands of Nevada, the two ship advocates who have been absent from the Capitol during the last few days, the situation suddenly shifted in connection with the administration ship purchase bill. Their votes will make it possible for the allied democratic and progressive republicans to amend the Clarke motion to recommit the bill so as to provide for amendments to the bill satisfactory to the progressive republicans and instructing the committee to report the bill back to the Senate.

It is likely this course will be followed instead of permitting the bill to be re-committed and of relying upon the democratic and progressive republicans to carry the Gore motion to discharge the commerce committee from further consideration of the bill. The bill, however, which is the administration bill with two amendments.

The return to Washington of Senator Smith and Senator Newlands will find the Senate in a position to vote on the bill. The Senate will find the bill in a position to vote on the bill. The Senate will find the bill in a position to vote on the bill.

Stone and Williams Still Full of Fight

Democratic senatorial callers at the White House today were completely at sea as to the future of the ship purchase bill and the outlook for an extra session of Congress. None of the callers, however, discussed the situation with the President. They were accompanied by visitors or had other things to talk about.

No conference with the President had been arranged, but the expectation was widespread that the President will determine within a few days whether he will continue to push the bill regardless of whether it entails an extra session which his friends have been so eager to avoid.

When the President does confer with the Senate leaders, he will find a wide conflict of opinion upon the question of dropping or keeping up the fight on the bill. The inner feeling is tending strongly toward the plan of dropping the bill entirely if votes taken today or in the next few days show that the democrats cannot put a measure through without forcing an extra session.

Seek Vote Today.

The democrats will seek today to force the parliamentary situation back to the point where the republicans must make a choice between a filibuster in the Senate and the defeat of the bill at this session. Having put them in this position, the democrats may be content to stop their fight and turn to the appropriation bills to avoid an extra session.

A number of democratic senators believe that the politics of the fight will be favorable to the party if they will place the responsibility for defeat upon the republicans. They will then be able to tell the voters that the President and his party offered to let the republicans have the bill and that the republicans refused to let it become law.

Senator Sherman of North Carolina, whose leadership the President respects for its wise suggestion, and who is often called into conference at the

WILLAWAIT REPORT ON LUSITANIA FLAG INCIDENT

Use of U. S. Colors by the Lusitania Is Subject of Inquiry.

OFFICIALS EXPECT NOTE FROM AMBASSADOR PAGE

State Department Also Looks for Explanation by British Admiralty.

White House, was with the President a short time today, but talked about a patronage matter, he said. Mr. Owen said that the ship bill would be obtained in the Senate late this afternoon that would give an idea as to later developments.

Williams Favors Extra Session.

Senator John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, full of fight over the question, stated, on leaving the White House, that if the ship bill be defeated by a filibuster he would like to see an extra session called.

"Let us have the extra session," he said, "and we will then put through the ship bill and a rural credits bill, thereby completing our program of legislation. The constituents of the so-called democratic senators who are opposing this measure, can then determine whether they are worthy of return to the Senate."

Senator Stone of Missouri was at the White House, but did not see the President. He is still full of fight and is willing to force the ship question right to the end.

The suggestion was made today that even if the ship fight continues to the end of this month and can then be definitely settled the democrats might avoid a session by passing a final resolution continuing the appropriation bills for the present fiscal year until Congress again meets next year.

Invite Wilson to Missouri.

Representative Borland of Missouri called on the President today with a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, which extended an invitation to Mr. Wilson to visit that city on his way to or from San Francisco. The President told his visitors that even the California trip was contingent on the European situation and upon the outcome of the fight in Congress. He sincerely hoped to avoid an extra session, he declared, and hoped to know within a few days what to expect in that direction.

At present, however, he could make no promises about a trip across the continent.

Representative Tribble of Georgia told the President today that a careful canvass of the House showed that the ship purchase bill, if it passes the Senate, will go through the House by a majority of from twenty-five to thirty votes. The Georgia delegation, with one possible exception, would be for the bill, he said.

Mr. Tribble said that the situation in the House had been carefully investigated and there was no doubt as to the safe majority the bill would have there.

HOUSE GIVES SETBACK TO GROW CAR BILL

Sets Aside District Day and Appropriations.

The first test vote on the "Jim Crow" bill for the District of Columbia taken in the House today was a temporary setback for the bill by a vote of 188 to 197. Although the vote was not taken directly on the bill, the friends of the measure had been rallied by Representative Clark of Florida, author of the bill, in a speech before Chairman Fitzgerald of the appropriations committee, from overriding District day and going ahead with the sundry civil appropriation bill.

When the House assembled at 11 o'clock Representative Clark, with the bill in his pocket, entered the House, followed by an unusually large group of republicans, for an 11 o'clock meeting of the House.

Chairman Johnson's Plea.

After the brief morning business had been concluded, Representative Fitzgerald moved that the House go into committee of the whole to consider further the items in the big sundry civil bill.

"I hope that motion will not prevail," said Chairman Johnson of the District committee, "as it is an important legislative affecting the District of Columbia and this is District day."

Representative Fitzgerald was plainly surprised at the loud and vociferous motion, which was to be considered by the House to get a vote on the Clark bill today if possible.

District Day Set Aside.

"The noes seem to have it," announced Speaker Clark.

Representative Fitzgerald thereupon promptly made a point of no quorum and the ensuing roll call vote showed the "solid south" practically a unit for District day, the business of which would have been a discussion of the Clark "Jim Crow" bill.

District day was thereupon set aside and the debate on the sundry civil bill proceeded.

IN SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

Increased Demand for Ships of American Registry.

NEW YORK, February 8.—Curtailed of European trade with South America because of war and a shortage of steamships has brought about a demand for sailing vessels of American registry, and every ship, bark and schooner flying the American flag is being eagerly sought to carry cargoes to and from the coast of South America.

For the first time in twenty years schooners and ships engaged in the coast and lumber trade in the coastwise traffic have been chartered as regulars in the South American trade. More than a dozen of these vessels are now at local piers with cargoes for South America.

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State Department Also Looks for Explanation by British Admiralty.

Pending the arrival of an official report from Ambassador Page, no official statement will be made of how the American government regards the hoisting of the American flag on the British steamship Lusitania while crossing the Irish seas. It was believed that an official statement from the British admiral should also be received by the State Department.

While the incident was discussed with interest in official and diplomatic quarters, there was no indication of what developments it might bring about. "Under consideration" was the response of Secretary Bryan to questions regarding the purpose of the State Department in the matter of the use of the American flag by the Lusitania and the German declaration of a war zone around the British Isles.

Officials Are Reticent.

Evidently these matters are regarded as too delicate at this juncture to admit of free discussion in the press, for the officials are reticent regarding the receipt of any cables from the ambassadors at London or Berlin dealing with these subjects, and are even indisposed to confirm the accuracy of the press accounts in which the flag is alleged, are being received in this country.

There are some indications that the State Department is contemplating the treatment of these important matters in one general note or statement, similar to the one issued last week by Secretary Bryan's recent letter to Senator Stone, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, defending the administration's attitude against the various charges of unneutral conduct that had appeared in the press.

Senator Stone was a White House caller today. He said that in his opinion the hoisting of the American flag by the Lusitania was an "improper use of the flag." Senator Stone added that it would be possible for Congress to adopt a resolution protesting against the incident, but that he thought it a matter to be handled entirely by the executive branch of the government.

Naval Officers Cite Rule.

Naval officers recalled that the navy regulations permit a warship to fly another flag than its own, but specifically provide it must be hoisted before a shot is fired. There are many incidents in naval history where the German sea rover Emden, which hoisted the Japanese flag just before the attack on the Japanese fleet, was not in naval procedure recalled no case, however, where a merchantman was hoisted.

It was recalled in naval circles here today that when Capt. Glass, commander of the USS Albatross, was on his way to the Philippines with a convoy of troops, stopped and captured Guam in the name of the United States. The ship was hoisted on the ship's flag and the ship's flag was hoisted on the ship's flag.

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ROUMANIANS AND AUSTRIANS REPORTED TO HAVE FOUGHT FURIOUS THREE-HOUR BATTLE

Engagement Declared to Have Been Brought on When Austrian Force Violated Rumanian Territory, Being Repulsed by Frontier Guards.

PARIS, February 8.—Austrian troops have violated the Rumanian frontier near Turn Severin, the Journal is informed in a dispatch from its Nish correspondent. The Austrians are reported to have fired on frontier guards who attempted to oppose their passage, and a furious fight followed.

Strong reinforcements came to the help of the Rumanians, and, after a three-hour struggle, the Austrians are reported to have been driven back across the line with a large number of wounded.

If the Austrians had captured Turn Severin, the correspondent says, they would have had complete command of Kladovo, the only place in Serbia on the Danube permitting communication with Roumania.

The incident, which occurred several days ago, has not been followed up by either side, the Journal's report states.

REPORT BY AMBASSADOR PAGE ON LUSITANIA FLAG INCIDENT

Reviews Facts Learned From Passengers, But Has Had No Word From Downing Street.

LONDON, February 8, 3:07 p.m.—Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador in London, today forwarded to the State Department a report on the Lusitania flag incident. The ambassador in his report informally reviews the alleged use of the American flag by the Cunard liner on entering Liverpool harbor Saturday morning, as was related to the members of the embassy staff by Americans who had crossed the Atlantic on the vessel.

Mr. Page has not communicated with the foreign office concerning the incident, and as yet no official communications concerning the use of the American flag by a British vessel have passed between the American and British governments.

As the Lusitania carried 340 cabin passengers, many of them prominent Americans who have a wide acquaintance in London, the news of the flag incident spread rapidly in the hotels and clubs until it has become almost the sole topic of conversation. The British government stoutly maintains that the captain of the Lusitania was not ordered by government officials to use a neutral flag.

Justified by British Press.

The news of the arrival at Liverpool under the American flag of the Cunard liner Lusitania is given much space in the English papers today. The information was received too late to permit of much editorial comment as yet, but enough has been printed to show that the incident is regarded as one of great importance. It is not generally expected, however, that the British government will take further action unless Washington requests an explanation.

Blow to British Pride.

"In our case, above all others," says the Daily Express, "such tactics seem inexpedient and even humiliating to the British mind. Since when has the union jack become a color to be hoisted down timidly or an inadequate

MAY SEEK CHANGE IN ESTATE TAXES

Improved Method Regarding Personal Property Likely to Follow. Page Charges.

LAW, NOT ASSESSORS, RESPONSIBLE FOR SYSTEM

Letters to North Carolina Representative From Taxpayers Give Experiences of Writers.

Improvement in the methods of levying personal taxes in the District of Columbia may be sought through the joint effort of Representative Page, chairman of the District appropriations subcommittee of the House, and the District Commissioners, as a result of the charges made by the former on the floor of the House Saturday that the present system largely is based on guesswork.

It was learned today that the subject already had been discussed by Representative Page and Commissioner Newman, terminating in an agreement that the District official is to arrange for the installation of whatever administrative improvements are possible at present, while Representative Page will consider what changes, if any, should be made in the personal tax law.

At the District building it is pointed out that whatever criticism may be made of the present method of assessing personal taxes should be directed against the law and not the assessors, as the official is declared to have open to him no course other than to follow the law on the subject.

Says Assessors Guess Value.

Representative Page's principal criticism was that the assessors, in the absence of an inventory, walk by a house and make a guess as to the value of the personal property contained within. He claimed that he has been assessed with a penalty of 20 per cent for failure to make return on his personal property, and that he has been assessed on the basis of a return which he voluntarily made a year ago, according to officials of the assessor's office. He said that the usual 20 per cent penalty was added, as is required by law in all such cases.

Regarding the charge that guess work is resorted to when no returns are made, members of the board of personal tax appraisers admit that this is the case, and point out that it is done in accordance with law. Assessments thus made are not subject to appeal, while established property owners, who are high so that property owners affected will appeal to the board. This is the only method of correction of values which the board, in many cases, can arrive approximately at the value of property which has not been listed by owners.

Provision of the Law.

The law governing this feature provides "That if the said board of personal tax appraisers be not satisfied as to the correctness of the return of personal property made by any person, firm, association, company, administrator, executor, guardian or trustee, said board may reject said return, and may, in lieu thereof, make an assessment thereof, may, from the best information he or they can procure, or by making such estimate of value as they may deem proper, assess the same in such amount as to the board may seem just and equitable, and the rejection of the sworn return shall be given to the party interested in the property, and in all such cases there shall be a right of appeal from the assessment of the board to the board of personal tax appraisers, provided for, or to the District Court of the District of Columbia, within ten days after delivery of said notice of rejection as aforesaid."

Complaints of property owners who claim that their personal belongings have been assessed too high are now being made. The property owners will hold daily sessions until March 8. The board convenes at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. and its decisions should be made by personal appearance.

Complaints of Taxpayers.

Representative Page today received communications from several taxpayers in the city giving experiences with the personal tax assessment system similar to that complained of by Mr. Page in the House of Representatives last Saturday. One of the communications was from a woman on Connecticut avenue, who complains that her tax bill had been increased upward without any addition by her to the stock of personal property in her home, and that she had been assessed on the basis of a return which she had not made.

Another letter was from a man who charged that employees of the assessor's office are going about at night making up personal tax returns for property owners who have not made returns, and that he had made an affidavit as to its accuracy before a notary.

Notwithstanding this, the board, he said, had assessed him on the basis of an estimate by \$500, and refusing to accept his sworn statement; but no member of the board of assessors, he said, had ever visited his house.

"The trouble is just as I pointed out in the House last Saturday," he said, "there is no enough initiative in the law. No legislation is needed to cover the situation; all they need is the power to make a return. Then if the returns under oath are wrong they have the District attorney and the grand jury to rely on for indictments for perjury."

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate.

Resumed consideration of government ship purchase bill.

Senator La Follette introduced resolution to provide a calling conference of the legislative nations to consider establishment of world peace.

House.

Met at 11 a.m.

Debate was resumed on the sundry civil appropriation bill.

The judiciary committee considered charges against Federal Judge Dayton of West Virginia.

FAITH OF HUNGARY STILL IN BALANCE AS BATTLES RAGE

Russians and Austrians Both Claim to Have Scored Successes.

CLEAR POLAND OF ENEMY BY SPRING, THE PROGRAM

Czar's Military Experts Think Time Has Come to Inaugurate a General Offensive.

GERMAN ATTACK IS SHIFTED

Attempt to Reach Warsaw Believed to Have Been Sidetracked for Campaign in East Prussia.

PETROGRAD, February 8.—Hard fighting continued in the Carpathians with success of considerable importance for the Russian troops, according to an official communication issued here today.

A pursuit of the Austrians after their resistance had been broken at three fortified positions near Mezolaborcz is said to have resulted in the capture of more than 2,500 prisoners. The capture of additional troops after a retreat north of Uzsook pass also is recorded, while it is stated Austrian attacks were repulsed at other mountain passes.

Minor Russian victories are claimed in East Prussia and northern Poland.

Great Battle in Bukovina.

GENEVA, via Paris, February 8.—Desperate fighting is going on in the Carpathians between Lawocne, in Galicia, and Volocets, in Hungary. According to advices received here the Russians have captured the villages of Ulics, Komarnik, Csertes and Swidnik.

A great battle is raging in Bukovina, between Perna-Watra and Kimpulov. Austrian headquarters has prohibited war correspondents from going to the front at Poschorita. The Austrians are reported to have been driven back beyond the Moldavia river and the Russians also have gained some small successes at Yablomitsa.

Russians Plan Offensive.

WARSAW, Russian Poland, February 8 (via London).—The reaction which followed the cessation of the fierce German aggressive in the region of Human and Borlinow, in the early hours of the morning, has led to the initiation of a new offensive in the East Prussian country which lies between Tilsit, Gumbinnen and Lipno, has provided the Russian forces on the Polish, in the opinion of Russian military observers, with a long-heralded offensive whose ultimate result will be the expulsion of German forces from West Poland.

Ever since the German attack on Borlinow, which reached its climax Thursday, the number of German troops between the junction of the Bzura river and Bolimow has been decreasing.

German Attack Shifted.

Following their failure to make material headway against the Russian line which protected Human and Borlinow, the Germans shifted their attack to the right bank of the Vistula, northwest of Warsaw, between Lipno and Sierpce. This offensive, however, was not comparable in intensity to the former, and it evidently was only an interlude to mask an important transfer of German troops in the direction of East Prussia.

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Russian Military Observers in Poland.

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